



Around the Block
QUILT SHOP

August 5, 2022

Who doesn't like zucchini? It's the one veggie that grows like a weed, everyone can do it and feel successful, and it's the only veggie that appears in cardboard boxes wherever you work to be given away for free.

I saw a box at a knitting shop in Omaha this week with three weirdly shaped zucchinis for the taking. When I worked for the state, everyone had them and there were few takers. Gardeners in town that plant can't pick, use and give away all that the vines produce, which means that at the end of the summer they are giving away 10 pound zucchinis. And nobody wants to work with a huge, over grown zucchini.

I'm not a fan. You never see corn, or tomatoes (rarely), cantaloupe, peaches, beans, snap peas, potatoes or carrots being given away. Lettuce gets given away as well, but mainly because when it's ready to eat you gotta pick it. And it doesn't keep. Unlike zucchini. The only reason tomatoes are often given away is because the backyard gardener plants too many of them and doesn't realize how many tomatoes can actually come from one plant. But all of those veggies actually taste good. Zucchini is a wannabe cucumber with a flat and dense, not crisp taste.

Clearly, I'm not a fan. But...

There is one recipe for soup that requires a zucchini. It's out of the Colorado Cache cookbook. (I think.) I was at a retreat, I knew the ingredients, was dreading eating the soup and, to my surprise, it was great. So when I went home I made that soup. Without the zucchini, of course, because the one veggie I refuse to buy at a grocery store is a zucchini. And I discovered the soup was not as tasty. The next time I made it, I used zucchini. But I did it in the summer time when I could find giveaways.

And before I really upset readers who are diehard fans of the stuff, I will say there are people who really like it. They probably like cauliflower, too. Cauliflower reminds me of what a piece of bone or coral may taste like. Probably because of the color. But people do like their cauliflower. Some people. And they smother it with cheese. But that's a different story. We need to stick with zucchini.

So zucchini season is upon us. We're given them whether we like them or not. We mainly put it in bread products. It's called filler. We say, oh it makes the "zucchini" bread so moist. I like banana bread. To swap zucchini for banana is just a way to get rid of the zucchini. And then we make up lies to say, Oh it's just as good as banana bread. You'd never know it was made with zucchini. Yes, you do. We delude ourselves by telling ourselves that we have to like it because we can't just throw it away.

But I'm willing to give zucchini another look. And to that end I found a list of things you can make with the stuff. For example, minestrone soup, made with leeks, potatoes, beans, spinach, orzo and zucchini. And then to give it flavor, the recipe calls for grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese.

Tortellini & zucchini soup, that also calls for carrots, garlic, tomato, onion. You need two zucchinis for this one. It adds color, the recipe says. Note it didn't say flavor. Actually this is similar to the Colorado Cache recipe and I'll admit that leaving out the zucchini may be a mistake. But you could probably get away with just one. The only reason two is used is because...you have more of the stuff than you know what to do with. And adding more doesn't change the taste, just adds bulk.

Vegetable weight-loss soup, which contains many things that have plenty of vitamins, no calories, are "good for you," and...the only way you might even eat some of it: Kale, zucchini, spinach, and celery, combine with a little more flavor and color with carrots, green beans, garlic, onion, tomato and white beans. And I often make this kind of soup, but I

leave out the first 4 ingredients. Side note on celery: I like celery, but a friend was allergic, so I stopped adding it to my recipes and found I really didn't miss it all that much.

Then there's the creamy zucchini-chickpea soup, topped with spinach. It's all green. Creamed green. You can also just have creamed zucchini soup, using potatoes as a base, although with all the free zucchinis around, adding potatoes is probably not necessary. It's also green, but not as Shrek-green as the zucchini-chickpea soup.

Moving on, you can make a creamy chicken soup with vegetables and sun-dried tomatoes, and...one of the veggies is of course zucchini. This soup is not green. And it does look good. The zucchini is basically filler.

You can also add zucchini to the traditional corn tortilla soup, which is just as good on its own. It doesn't need the zucchini, but...you've got a bunch of it lying around, so might as well cut it up and use it. Probably doesn't hurt?

So if it isn't obvious yet, you can add zucchini to just about anything. It's a filler. Most of the time the soup is probably better off without it. Except when it's not.

The moral of this story? Or maybe just the ending. I went to Omaha this week to buy tomatoes. And to visit my brother. I usually don't want to be in Nebraska during the summer. As an example, when we got to Grand Island to get gas, stepping out of the truck was like walking into a wall. But it's humidity and temps like that that produce tomatoes. Really great tomatoes. Pricey tomatoes. One tomato is a meal. So you can get meals, toppings on burgers and salads, BLTs, salsa and soups, although it is sometimes a shame to waste such a good tomato in a soup, but the flavor it adds Wow. It's worth the heat to go to Omaha in the summer.

And I got corn, watermelon, peaches (from Colorado, go figure), and cucumbers that I accidentally left with my brother. But the produce stands also had great looking potatoes, musk melons bigger than basket balls, huge watermelons the size of which I haven't seen since I was a kid, green beans and, did I mention, tomatoes.

They also sold zucchinis, although I'm not sure why.

P.S. Tomorrow is the first day of our local Farmer's Market. I bet they have zucchini.

Home for the Holidays Christmas Quilt

84" X 101"

The Holiday Cheer quilt (still) is undergoing a few revisions. (I've been on vacation.) Don't worry – fabric requirements are the same for the big quilt, but we have cut two different kits, one with cowboy boots and one with gnomes, that are smaller, so I have different cutting charts for these quilts. Plus I have labeled the pieces a little differently so that you will know how much fabric for each pattern piece, in case you want to change or add colors when you are picking out fabrics. Plus I have changed the pattern to accommodate directional prints, like the gnomes. Plus I have figured out basic fabric requirements for a queen/king sized quilt. Whew!



I have a couple of pattern corrections, one for the size of the setting triangle and a couple others for number of pieces to cut—for the different sizes of quilts. I am working on getting everything labeled. As soon as those additions are in the pattern, I will post it in the newsletter.

AND POSTPONED: The Kaleidoscope quilt in August will be postponed until the fall. The fabric will not be in until late August (hoping).

Since the Kaleidoscope class is postponed, I decided to put the Holiday Cheer quilt on the schedule for August 20, 10:30-4. CLASS IS FREE IF YOU BUY THE KIT OR CURRENT FABRIC FROM THE STORE FOR THIS QUILT. OTHERWISE CLASS IS \$35. Because this quilt has both grown and changed over the course of its existence, I decided a class in how to put this one together might be helpful. The directional fabric pattern (gnomes) has a little different

construction you don't normally see, and because the setting triangles on both quilts are pieced, I will demonstrate how make these tricky little blocks. Just think—you can get a good jump start on your Christmas quilting.

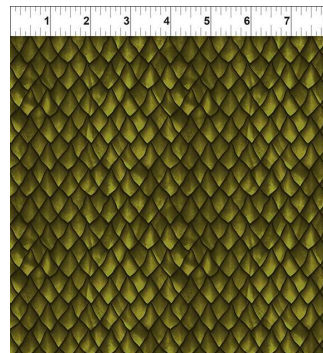
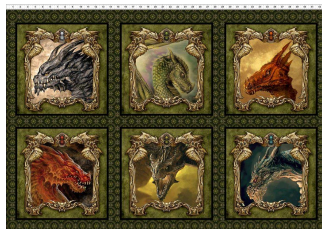
ALSO REMEMBER: The pattern link below is for the pattern. There will be some minor changes to the pattern that I will get out soon but the fabric requirements for the 84" X 101" quilt are good. I have the fabric requirements for all other sizes at the shop and can help you get the right amounts for your chosen quilt. If the link doesn't work, let me know.

[Home for the Holidays Quilt](#)

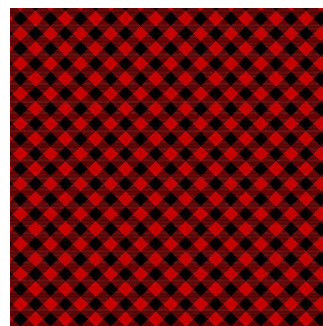
What's New

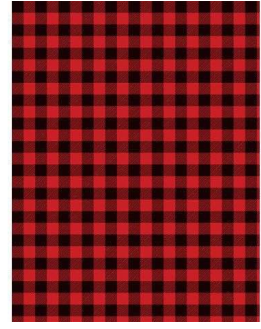
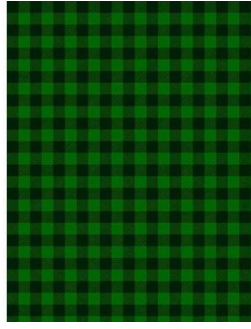


In the Beginning

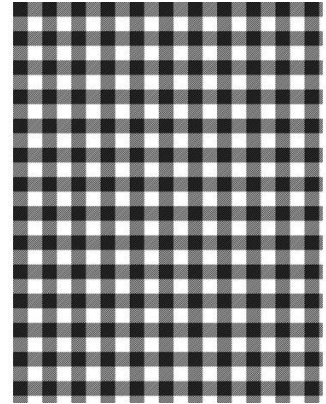


Henry Glass



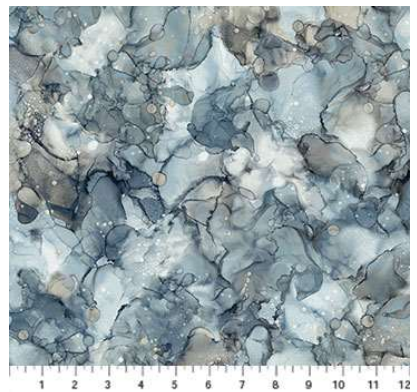
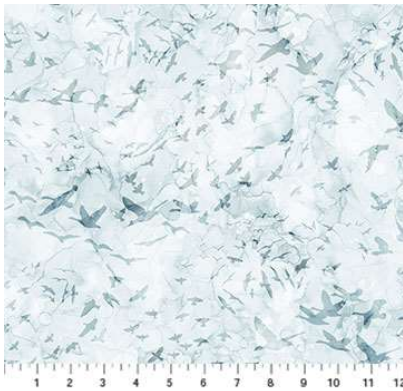


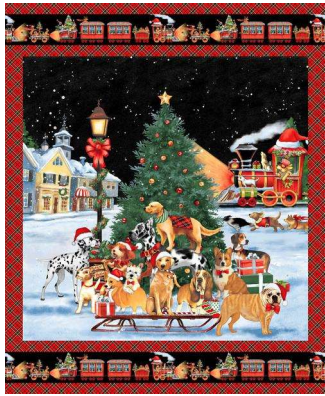
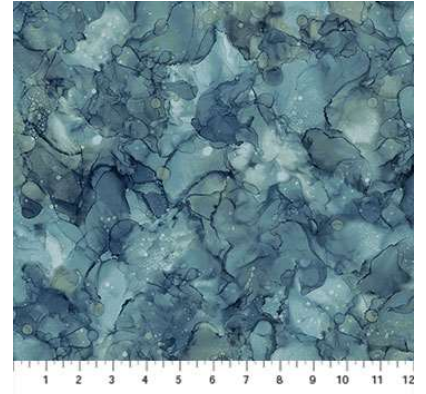
Wilmington





Northcott: Soar WE HAVE KITS!

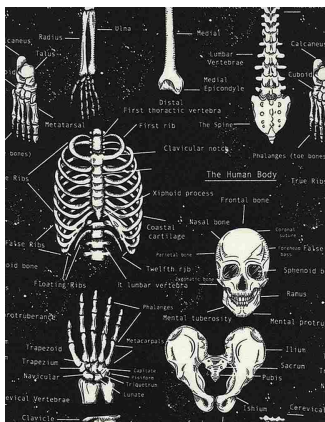
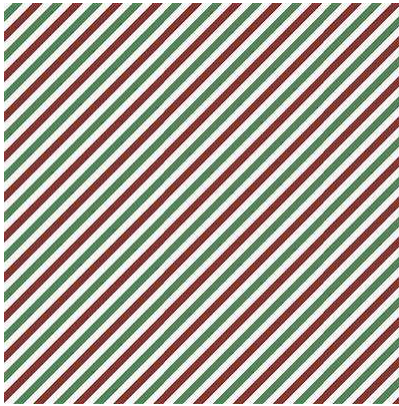




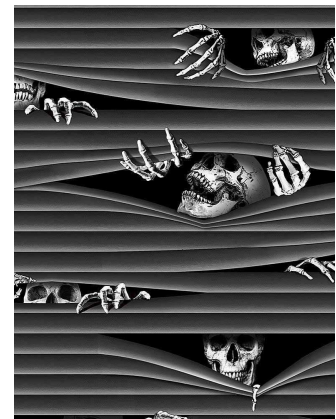
From Studio E

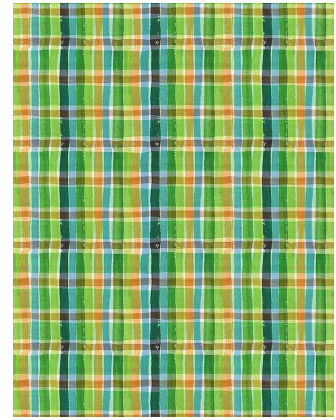


From Clothworks

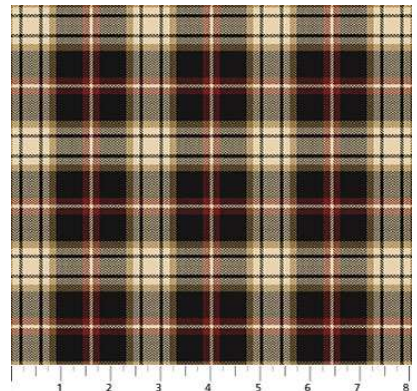
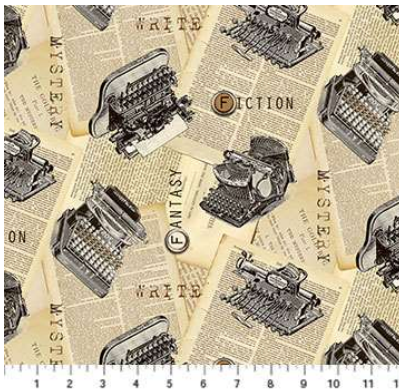
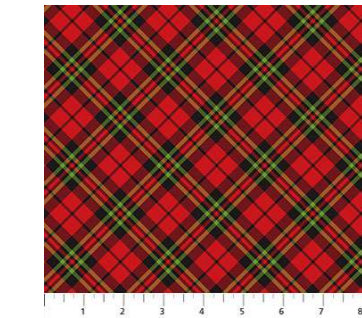
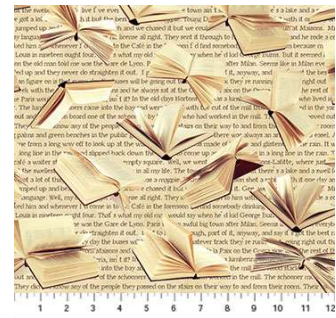
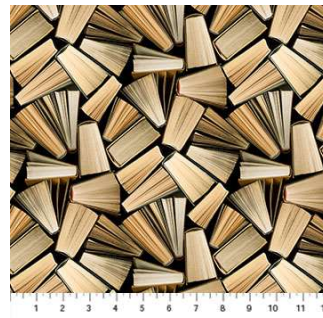


Timeless: The 2 black/skeleton fabrics glow in the dark





From Dear Stella

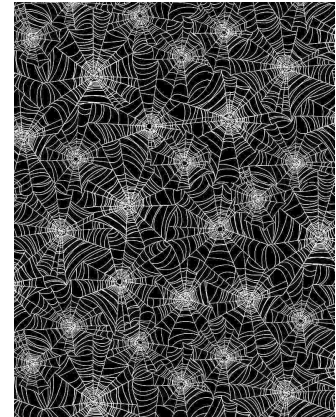


From Northcott

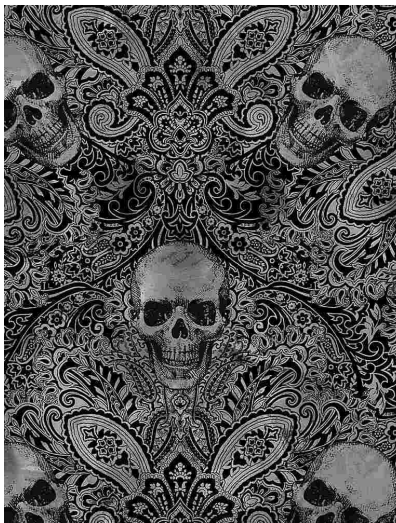




Also have the Elk and Deer panel on the bolt.



From Timeless Treasures





August Classes

Creative Grid Ruler Demo Sat August 13, 1-2 FREE

The third ruler in August is the **Curvy Log Cabin ruler**. By cutting logs at different widths, you can create the illusion of curves and this ruler shows you how. We'll have some cute table runner patterns (mainly holiday) to go with. . Come to the free demo, learn how to use the ruler, and if you buy the ruler that day, 20% off the cost of the ruler. I will have limited supplies of the rulers in stock, but if I run out, if you pay for the ruler, I will order it in for you.

POSTPONED. THE FABRIC WON'T BE IN. CLASS WILL BE RESCHEDULED IN THE FALL. Kaleidoscope Ruler Quilt August 20 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This quilt is from In the Beginning fabrics, although most any 10" wide border stripe would work. You cut 8 identical pieces (similar to One Block Wonder and Stack & Whack) using the kaleidoscope ruler. Full sized blocks are used in the center and half blocks for the setting triangles. It looks harder than it is. Only two fabrics are used for this quilt. If you want a kit, please sign up early (as soon as the fabric arrives) as we will have limited supplies.

INSTEAD: HOLIDAY CHEER QUILT AUG 20-10:30-4 CLASS IS FREE IF YOU BUY THE KIT OR CURRENT FABRIC FROM THE STORE FOR THIS QUILT. OTHERWISE CLASS IS \$35

Because this quilt has both grown and changed over the course of its existence, I decided a class in how to put this one together might be helpful. The directional fabric pattern (gnomes) has a little different construction you don't normally see. And because on both quilts the setting triangles are pieced, I will demonstrate how make these tricky little blocks.

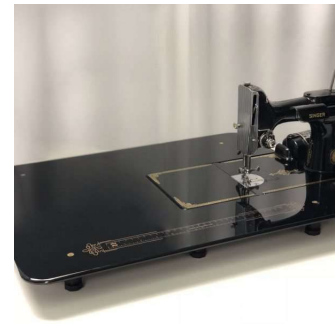
NOTE: I can't change the calendar easily, so it still shows the Kaleidoscope class.

Make & Take Sat Aug 27, 10:30-3 \$30 Jean Korber includes pattern NEW INFO

Fabric Bowl: We will make a fabric bowl -- not designed for microwave, although you probably could use it there. It's a bowl for you to put things in, like yarn, apples, mail....you know, all those collectible things on the counter. You will need your sewing machine. You will need 2 1/2" strips, clothesline, wonder clips and some glue. We are NOT kitting this one because most of you have extra 2 1/2" strip sets lying around. We have all of the other parts at the store.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August	1	2 Hand work Club 2-4	3 Long Arm class 10:30	4 Long Arm Rental Day	5	6 BOM 10:30
7 CLOSED	8	9 Hand work Club 2-4	10 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	11 Long Arm Rental Day Full moon	12	13 Embroidery Club 10-noon Rulers: Creative Grid Curvy Ruler demo 1-2 20% of ruler
14 Beginning Quilting 1-4	15	16 Hand work Club 2-4	17 Long Arm class 10:30	18 Long Arm Rental Day	19	20 Kaleidoscope Ruler Quilt 10:30-4
21	22	23 Hand work Club 2-4	24 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	25 Long Arm Rental Day	26	27

28	29	30 Hand work Club 2-4	31 Color of the month: blacks		
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Nolting Quilting Machines



Nolting Longarm Machines

Nolting has 5 main machines, each with different reaches: from 17" to 30" depending on the machine. They are sold with or without a frame, but after I saw & helped set up one of the steel frames this week, I recommend buying the frame. All machines, except for the Standard--the most economical machine-- have a stitch regulator. I recommend a stitch regulator. All machines can be equipped with a computer and there are a couple of different ones to choose from. In addition, you can get an extended table base so that you can use rulers, you can get larger bobbins on some of the models and on the frames you can get hydraulic lifts to raise and lower the tables. In the coming weeks, I will print out more information on each model.

The best entry level machine is the Fun Quilter. It comes in 17", 20" & 23" reach. It comes with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

The Pro Machine has the Intellistitch Turbo stitch regulator, single stitch option, standard speed control, needle up/down and customizable handles in the front & rear. The Pro Machine comes in 20", 24" and 30" reach with 10-12" of inside height. There are easy dials on the front to set stitch length and other options. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

The NV Machine is the newest in the fleet of Nolting machines. This machine has a touch screen with programmable stitch regulation. You can stitch in 4 different stitch modes plus single stitch and needleup/down. It also has an adjustable brightness LED work light. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-6
Sunday 1-5

Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)

New Hours for Winter Time (starting Nov 7-May 22)

Monday-Saturday 10-5, closed Sundays unless a class is scheduled. Then we're open 1-5. Check the schedule.

Join the fun and come feel the difference of quality fabrics.

Happy quilting!

Sincerely, Barbara Boyer
Around the Block
307-433-9555

www.aroundtheblockquilts.com

